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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/706,976	11/14/2003	Hoey Ng Ho Yin	VTX0034-US	7487
28970	7590	08/24/2005	EXAMINER	
PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP 1650 TYSONS BOULEVARD MCLEAN, VA 22102			TRINH, SONNY	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2687	

DATE MAILED: 08/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/706,976

Applicant(s)

YIN, HOEY NG HO

Examiner

Sonny TRINH

Art Unit

2687

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 9 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/05, 5/12/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statements filed on 02/08/05 and 05/12/05 have been considered and placed in the application file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. **Claims 1-11, 17, 21-22** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Son ("Son"; U.S. Patent Number 6,862,464).

Regarding **claim 1**, with reference to figures 2-4, Son discloses an electronic apparatus (figure 2) comprising:

a portable unit (portable unit 4 of figure 2) having a battery pack and charge terminals (figure 2, terminals 4a-4c), the charge terminals are electrically coupled to the battery pack (inherent); and

a base unit (figure 2, base 3) comprising:

a voltage status control circuit for detecting and determining a voltage level of a power supply of the base unit (figure 3), and a cradle disposed within the base unit (figure 2), the cradle is configured to receive the portable unit and has electrical contacts positioned for electrical coupling with the charge terminals of the portable unit when the portable unit is disposed within the cradle (see figure 2 and terminal contacts 4a-4c, 3a-3c), wherein the base unit operates using power received from the battery pack of the portable unit when the voltage level of the base unit power supply is below a predetermined level (abstract, column 2 lines 50-60, column 3 line 59 to column 4 line 9).

Regarding **claim 2**, Son further discloses that the base unit and the portable unit are associated with a cordless telephone system (figure 2, see description), wherein the base unit is configured to place and receive telephone calls using the power received from the battery pack of the portable unit (column 2 line 50-60, column 3 line 59 to column 4 line 9).

Regarding **claim 3**, Son further discloses that the battery pack of the portable unit is a rechargeable battery pack (figure 2, see description in columns 3-4).

Regarding **claim 4**, Son further discloses that the battery pack of the portable unit can be recharged by the external source of power when the portable unit is placed in the cradle of the base unit (figure 2, see description in columns 3-4).

Regarding **claim 5**, Son further discloses that the system comprising a second portable unit configured to communicate with the base unit, wherein the second portable unit comprises a battery pack and can be used to place and receive telephone calls via

the base unit when the base unit uses the power received from the battery pack of a first portable unit (see figure 3 and description in columns 3-4).

Regarding **claim 6**, since wireless handset 4 and 5 are identical and obviously interchangeable, it is inherent that the base unit operates using power supplied from the battery pack of the second portable unit when an external source of power to the base unit fails (see figure 2).

Regarding **claim 7**, Son further discloses that the base unit further comprises: a portable unit charging circuit responsive to an output of the voltage status control circuit to provide electrical energy to the electrical contacts when the voltage level exceeds the predetermined level; and a power control circuit responsive to an output of the voltage status control circuit to couple the electrical contacts to an input of a voltage regulator circuit when the voltage level falls below the predetermined level (column 3 line 57 to column 6 line 14).

Regarding **claim 8**, Son further discloses that the power control circuit comprises an electronic switch configured to alternatively couple or decouple the voltage regulator circuit with the electrical contacts depending upon a state of the voltage status control circuit output (figure 3, column 4).

Regarding **claim 9**, Son further discloses that the battery pack of the second portable unit is recharged by the external source of power when the second portable unit is placed in the cradle of the base unit (figures 2-3, column 5).

Regarding **claim 10**, Son discloses a method for powering a base unit of an electronic apparatus (abstract), comprising:

detecting by the base unit that a power outage condition has occurred; placing a portable unit of the electronic apparatus into a cradle of the base unit; and receiving power by the base unit from a battery pack of the portable unit (abstract, columns 3-4).

Regarding **claim 11**, Son further discloses the steps of comparing a voltage level of an external power line to a predetermined voltage level; and receiving power by the base unit from the battery pack of the portable unit when the voltage level of the external power line has fallen below the predetermined voltage level (column 4 line 32 to column 5 line 63).

Regarding **claim 17**, Son discloses a cordless telephone system for continued operation of a base unit during a power outage condition (abstract, figure 2-3, column 2 line 51 to column 3 line 20, the system comprising:

- a first cordless telephone portable unit (figure 2, portable 4), including a rechargeable battery pack (column 3 lines 59-63), and charge terminals that are electrically coupled to the rechargeable battery pack (figure 2 terminals 4a-4c);

- a base unit capable of communicating with the first cordless portable unit to place and receive telephone calls (inherent),

- the base unit comprising: a cradle that is configured to receive the first cordless portable unit (figure 2), the cradle comprising electrical contacts for electrical coupling with the portable unit charge terminals when the portable unit is disposed within the cradle (figure 2 terminals 3a-3c);

- a power supply for receiving electrical power from an external power source (figure 3);

a line status control circuit coupled to the base unit power supply which outputs a signal indicative of whether the voltage present on the power line exceeds a predefined level (columns 2-5);

a portable unit charging circuit responsive to an output of the line status control circuit to provide electrical energy to the electrical contacts when the voltage present on the power line exceeds a predefined level (columns 2-5); and

a power control circuit responsive to an output of the line status control circuit to couple the electrical contacts to an input of a voltage regulator circuit when the voltage present on the power line falls below a predefined level; wherein the base unit operates using power supplied by the first portable unit rechargeable battery pack when the external source of power to the power line fails (abstract, column 2 line 50-60).

Regarding **claim 21**, Son further teaches that the voltage regulator circuit having at least one input for receipt of electrical power and having at least one output providing regulated power to circuitry within the base unit (figures 3-4, please see descriptions).

Regarding **claim 22**, Son further teaches the power control circuit comprises an electronic switch configured to alternatively couple or decouple the voltage regulator circuit with the electrical contacts depending upon the state of the line status control circuit output (figure 3, switch Q1, please see description).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. **Claims 12-16, 18** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Son ("Son"; U.S. Patent Number 6,862,464) in view of Riedl ("Riedl"; U.S. Patent Number 6,757,549).

Regarding **claim 12**, Son discloses the invention as specified in claim 10 but does not explicitly disclose that the base unit is configured to place and receive telephone calls (it is noted here that in the background of the invention, Son discloses that conventional cordless base stations allow user to make and receive phone call from the base (see columns 1-2)).

In an analogous art, Riedl teaches the methods and apparatus for adapting transmission power of a remote wireless device. Riedl further teaches that the "...cordless base station 102 optionally has the same or similar interface. Thus, cordless base station 102, cordless handset 108, or both devices can be used to make and receive telephone calls..." (column 2, figure 3).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to incorporate the user interface to the base, as taught by Riedl into the system of Son in order to allow phone call to be made and received from the base. The motivation for doing so would be to allow user(s) to make and receive from call just in case the wireless handset is not in the cradle or misplaced.

Regarding **claim 13**, Son as modified by Riedl discloses that base unit is configured to place and receive telephone calls (column 2 of Riedl) using the power

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received from the battery pack of the portable unit (Son, column 2 line 50 to column 3 line 20).

Regarding **claim 14**, Son further teaches that the electronic apparatus includes a second portable unit (Son, figure 2), wherein the second portable unit is configured to place and receive telephone calls via the base unit (Riedl, column 2) when the base unit is powered by the battery pack of the first portable unit (Son, columns 3-5).

Regarding **claim 15**, Son further teaches that the battery pack of the portable unit is a rechargeable battery pack (figure 2, see description in columns 3-4).

Regarding **claim 16**, Son further teaches that the battery pack of the portable unit can be recharged by the external source of power when the portable unit is placed in the cradle of the base unit (figures 2-3, column 5).

Regarding **claim 18**, this claim is the combination of claims 12-13 and is therefore rejected for the same reasons above.

Regarding **claims 19-20**, the combination of Son and Riedl discloses the invention as specified in claim 17 but does not explicitly disclose that the first portable unit further comprises a speakerphone nor the base unit further comprises a speakerphone. However, speakerphones incorporated into the handset or the base are well known and widely used in the cordless telephone system and the Examiner takes Official notice of such used in the cordless system. The motivation for using the speakerphones is to provide hand-free features to the user, especially when the user is pre-occupied with other task(s) such as cooking, reading, writing etc...).

CONCLUSION

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sonny TRINH whose telephone number is 571-272-7927. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lester KINCAID can be reached on 571-272-7922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


SONNY TRINH
PRIMARY EXAMINER

8/16/05